

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2965

To require the Federal Communications Commission to study the current and projected demands on rural broadband networks associated with data transmission due to increased network usage.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2021

Mr. BRAUN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to study the current and projected demands on rural broadband networks associated with data transmission due to increased network usage.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

4       In this Act:

5           (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
6 means the Federal Communications Commission.

7           (2) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered pe-  
8 riod” means the 6-year period that—

(A) begins on the date that is 3 years before the date on which the proceeding under section 2(a)(1) is initiated; and

(B) ends on the date that is 3 years after the date on which the proceeding under section 2(a)(1) is initiated.

(6) RURAL BROADBAND PROVIDER.—The term “rural broadband provider” means an entity that—

- 1                         (A) provides qualifying broadband service  
2                         in a high-cost rural area using any terrestrial  
3                         technology, including a fixed or mobile wireless  
4                         or wireline network; and  
5                         (B) provides qualifying broadband service  
6                         to fewer than 250,000 customers.

7     **SEC. 2. RURAL BROADBAND NETWORK ADVANCEMENT**

8                         **STUDY.**

9                         (a) PROCEEDING BY FCC.—

10                         (1) IN GENERAL.—

11                         (A) INITIATION.—Not later than 1 year  
12                         after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
13                         Commission shall initiate a proceeding to ana-  
14                         lyze the demands that have been or will be  
15                         placed on rural broadband networks during the  
16                         covered period that are associated with data  
17                         transmitted over those networks.

18                         (B) CONCLUSION.—Not later than 1 year  
19                         after initiating the proceeding under subpara-  
20                         graph (A), the Commission shall conclude the  
21                         proceeding.

22                         (2) MATTERS FOR ANALYSIS.—The analysis  
23                         conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-  
24                         lowing:

## (A) ESTIMATION AND ANALYSIS OF NET-

## WORK USAGE.—

## 16 (B) CALCULATION OF COSTS.—

23 (I) user rates that are reasonably  
24 comparable to user rates in urban  
25 areas; or

12 (I) the initial deployment of rural  
13 broadband networks:

(III) the delivery of services to users over rural broadband networks, including the transmission of data between high-cost rural areas and urban or suburban interconnection points.

1                             (A) the quantity of data transmitted over  
2                             rural broadband networks of the provider, bro-  
3                             ken down by content owner, licensor, or dis-  
4                             tributor; and

5                             (B) any other information necessary for  
6                             the Commission to complete the proceeding  
7                             under paragraph (1).

8                             (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days  
9                             after concluding the proceeding under subsection (a)(1),  
10                            the Commission shall publish on its website and submit  
11                            to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
12                            tation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and  
13                            Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on  
14                            the findings of the proceeding.

